

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested. In the parent application, claims 13-21 were allowed. The rest of the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Spadoni et al. (US 6,440,926).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

US 6440926 (Spadoni) discloses a granular detergent composition comprising at least one detergent active ingredient and from 3 to 35 wt % of a dry effervescent granule as outlined. Example 4 in column 30 discloses 8 wt % anionic sulphonate or sulphate surfactant, and 10 wt % citric acid and 11 wt % polyacrylate as builders and optionally other detergent ingredients.

Example 4 discloses an alcohol ethoxylated EO 25. Example 4 does not, however, disclose any chain length for an ethoxylated alcohol nonionic surfactant, or a chain length of from 8 to 16 C atoms as presently claimed. Spadoni teaches in general alkoxylated nonionic surfactants with suitable chain lengths being from 6 to 40 C atoms, preferably 8 to 25 and more preferably from 12 to 20. Spadoni does not specifically teach the chain length of 8-16 and Example 4 is completely silent on chain length.

Quaternary ammonium cationic surfactants are also not disclosed in Example 4. They may however be present in the invention quaternary ammonium cationic surfactant with a C12 to C14 alkyl group are not even preferred monoalkoxylated amine surfactants pursuant to Spadoni. Even though C chain lengths of C6, C8, C10, C12, and C14 are mentioned with respect to bis alkoxylated amine surfactants this is a broad disclosure of a wide range of possible chain lengths, and the C12 to C14 alkyl methyl dihydroxyethyl ammonium compounds mentioned in the bis alkoxylated amine surfactant list, are not even mentioned as preferred ingredients in the list of preferred monoalkoxylated amine surfactants.

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Example 3 does not remedy these shortcomings.

There is no teaching in Spandoni et al towards the preferred chain length of nonionics, namely 8 to 16 C chains or to the preferred cationic surfactants namely a C12 to C14 monoalkoxylated amine surfactant. At least two key elements of the present invention are missing from examples. There is also no motivation in terms of achieving the aim of enhancing the effervescence or dissolution of granules to move away from the teaching in Spadoni.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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